

Library

HEALTH
A-1 OCT 58
GBL 23



BOROUGH OF SALTASH

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1957



BOROUGH OF SALTASH



R E P O R T

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1957

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION 	3
STAFF 	10
Section A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA 	11
Section B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA 	13
Section C. PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA 	14
Section D. HOUSING 	22
Section E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD ...	28
Section F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES ...	32
STATISTICAL APPENDICES 	34

BOROUGH OF SALTASH

THE REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year 1957

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Corporation of the Borough of Saltash.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1957 the estimated total population of the Health Area increased by 220 as compared with 1956. There was a sizeable increase of 330 in Torpoint U.D. with smaller increases of 40 in Looe U.D. and 10 in Liskeard M.B. The estimated population fell by 60 in Liskeard R.D., 50 in St. Germans R.D. and 50 in Saltash M.B. Generally speaking there is in this part of Cornwall a small excess of live births over deaths, but in 1957 the position was reversed, and the total of live births — 691 — was one less than the total for deaths. The birth rate for the Health Area was 15.4 per 1,000 of population as compared with the national figure of 16.1 per 1,000. The still birth rate at 17.1 per 1,000 total births was below the national figure of 22.4. The infant mortality rate at 17.4 per 1,000 live births was also below the figure of 23.0 for England and Wales. I am glad to be able to report that during 1957 there were no maternal deaths.

During the year deaths in the Health Area totalled 692, an increase of 40 on the 1956 total. The death rate at 12.2 per 1,000 of the population was slightly above the national rate of 11.5. The average age at death was 67 years for males, a small reduction on last year's figure of 68 years. That for females was 73 years, the same as in 1956. Both figures are very close to those given by the Registrar General in the most recently published Abridged Life Tables for 1956 for England and Wales. Of the 692 persons who died during the year, 352 or 51% had attained or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death. The most prevalent cause of death was heart disease with various forms of cancer again holding second place. Of defined cancerous conditions, that affecting the windpipe and lung was most numerous although showing some reduction on the figure for 1956. It is again interesting to note that of the 21 persons who died as the result of accidents, in only 4 were motor vehicles implicated.

In recent years, and more particularly in my Annual Reports for 1956, I have written about the increase in deaths from bronchial and lung cancer and the probable connection between this disease and prolonged and/or heavy consumption of tobacco, especially in the form of cigarettes. There have been no great developments in the investigations which are going on into this important subject. I think it is generally agreed that as the factors which cause these cancers probably act over the course of many years the answers to the various problems posed by this disease will require the marshalling of facts, and figures over a long period before confident and generally accepted recommendations for prevention can be put forward. In the meantime the available evidence continues to suggest that cigarette smoking is the principal culprit, and one feels bound to continue to advise young adults to leave the tobacco habit alone since this is much more easily done than trying to break with it when once it has become firmly established.

The total number of cases of notifiable disease, other than tuberculosis, rose sharply from 480 cases in 1956 to 1,466 cases in 1957. This was brought about by a sharp epidemic of measles in the Rural Districts of St. Germans and Liskeard, and the Borough of Saltash. The epidemic commenced in the Liskeard Rural District in January and from there it spread to Saltash Borough and St. Germans Rural District finally dying out in the latter district as late as October 1957. In spite of the large number of cases of measles notified — 1,270 in all — there were no deaths from the disease. It is also remarkable that in Torpoint U.D., Liskeard M.B. and Looe U.D. the incidence of the disease was very light. I have noted this apparent immunity of children in some districts immediately adjoining measles epidemic districts in other measles epidemic years but am quite unable to give any convincing reason for it. Of the more serious infectious diseases there were two cases of poliomyelitis, one case of paratyphoid infection, and two cases of diphtheria. The case of paratyphoid infection was contracted in France. In the case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis the diagnosis was in some doubt, and it appeared that the disease, if present, was contracted outside Cornwall. Of the two diphtheria cases one was a 35 year old man too old to have been included in the immunisation programme which commenced in 1940. The other case was a two year old boy whose parents had refused or probably just not bothered to have him immunised. While we must expect the occasional case of diphtheria in adults too old to have been included in the immunisation campaign from 1940 onwards, it is disturbing to find the disease in a young child for whom protection can be so readily obtained. In spite of the almost complete absence of diphtheria amongst children in recent years parents must appreciate that this happy state of affairs will continue only so long as they continue to have their young children protected by immunisation.

Whilst dealing with notifiable disease it is opportune to refer to the scheme for immunisation (vaccination) against poliomyelitis. During the year 1957 vaccination using vaccine produced in Britain continued at a relatively slow rate and by the end of the year some 1,560 children only had been protected and a further 1,406 children registered by their parents in June/July 1957 were still awaiting vaccination. Towards the end of the year it became evident that the relatively small amounts of British vaccine which could be produced would seriously delay the extension of the scheme to all children up to the age of 15 years, and it was therefore decided to import supplies of vaccine from Canada and the U.S.A. As a result of this, and in expectation of ample supplies from these new sources registration was extended to cover all children born between 1.1.43 and 30.6.57 and in December 1957 close on 8,000 registration/consent cards were sent out to parents of eligible children through Head Teachers in schools and through Health Visitors and District Nurses. By the end of the year there was every hope, and expectation that the scheme would go forward at a much accelerated rate during the first half of 1958, and this has proved to be the case. In this Health Area I was most fortunate in securing the participation of all the General Practitioners in the Area in the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme and they have in fact dealt with close on 70% of the children registered. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing to them my very sincere thanks for the large part they have played in ensuring the success of this scheme. I must not close without including in these expressions of gratitude the Head Teachers of schools for allowing us to hold immunisation sessions in the schools, thereby dealing conveniently and expeditiously with large numbers of children. We hope and believe that the time spent and the effort put forth by all concerned will be repaid by a reduction in this disease.

As far as tuberculosis was concerned the year 1957 was a relatively good one with a reduction in the total number of cases notified to 21 as compared with 29 cases in 1956. The fall in the number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis from 28 in 1956 to 17 in 1957 was especially gratifying since this form of the disease is normally more serious for the patient, and the infection is more easily spread and passed on to others than in the non-respiratory form of tuberculosis. The main weight of the disease fell on adults, and no less than 8 of the 17 new cases of respiratory infection were in persons aged 45 years or more. This confirms the impression which has gained support in recent years that tuberculosis is tending to become a disease of middle-aged and elderly people. From this it follows that persons over the age of 45 who suffer from chronic cough or other disability connected with the chest should not too lightly assume that it is some less serious condition such as bronchitis, but should seek advice, and should in particular co-operate in any suggestion or arrangements for X-ray examination of

their chest. There were four deaths from tuberculosis during 1957, an increase of three on the 1956 total. Of these four persons dying of tuberculosis, three were aged 65 years or more at the time of death and it is open to doubt whether tuberculosis appreciably shortened their span of life.

During 1957 a further group of children close to school-leaving age (those born in 1944) were skin tested and where necessary given B.C.G. vaccination. The response to this scheme designed to afford some measure of protection against tuberculosis to susceptible adolescents is on the whole well received by parents of whom only 7% refused outright to consent to skin testing and vaccination. Of the 677 children eligible for inclusion in the scheme in 1957 the number eventually found to need B.C.G. vaccination and given it was 494. The number of children showing evidence of exposure at some time to tuberculosis infection (indicated by a positive skin test reaction) was 58. Subsequent follow-up of these children uncovered two hitherto unknown cases of active respiratory tuberculosis. One was a parent of the positively reacting child, and the other was another positively reacting child who on X-ray examination was found to have the disease.

Efforts to improve the standard of hygiene amongst personnel handling food and in premises in which food is handled continued throughout the year. The attitude of owners and occupiers of food premises to requests and suggestions made by the Public Health Inspectors was generally co-operative and it has been possible to bring almost all premises up to a satisfactory standard as far as equipment is concerned. In such circumstances it should be possible to handle, sell, and serve food cleanly but in this as in most other activities the weak link in the chain is the human being. If owners, managers and employees do not take an intelligent and conscientious interest and pride in their calling the assistance given by well designed and comprehensively equipped premises may well be set at naught.

In the sphere of housing the main activity has been confined to the building of houses to replace those being dealt with under slum clearance schemes at Saltash and Torpoint. In Liskeard Borough efforts to acquire a new housing estate site to the east of the town continued. The development of this site will enable a start to be made on schemes for the clearance of many old and unhealthy dwellinghouses in various parts of the town.

Since the end of the war the extension in the use of the caravan for temporary and permanent living accommodation has given rise to some concern. In a holiday area, such as Cornwall is, the demand for temporary accommodation in caravans is very great indeed during the summer months, and much of this is met by caravans assembled in large numbers on camps or sites. Before such sites can

be established and laid out for permanent use permission to do so must be obtained under two different heads. In the first place permission under Town and Country Planning legislation is required, and here this is not infrequently refused since collections of caravans are held to be detrimental to the amenities of a locality, and to detract from the landscape value. If the site is large and adjoins a major road carrying a large volume of traffic, considerations related to traffic congestion, and road safety may determine the refusal of permission for the site. If the necessary planning permission is not forthcoming either directly or on appeal to the Minister the use to which the site can be put for stationing caravans or camping is limited to a period not exceeding 28 consecutive days in a year. In face of such limitations the owner is naturally not inclined to spend more than is absolutely essential to develop and equip the site for the relatively short period of use permitted in any one year. Whereas in a large site permitted by the Planning authority one usually finds permanent sanitary blocks with water-carriage sanitation, good arrangements for collection of refuse and litter, metalled roads, and a neat and tidy lay-out, such is not usually the case in sites which fail to obtain planning permission and where the opportunity to use the site for more than 28 days does not exist. These latter sites display a more temporary make-shift lay-out, with the minimum of facilities needed to avoid creating public health nuisances and complaints from visitors using the site. In spite of these drawbacks as compared with the large approved site, very full use can be and is made of these unauthorised sites during the 28 days they are legally permitted to operate, particularly if these 28 days fall during the peak holiday months of July and August. In such circumstances and under heavy pressure by caravans and campers on barely adequate toilet and other facilities, standards of hygiene and sanitation on the site may fall seriously and actual nuisances may be created. It appears to me that if caravan and camp sites fail to satisfy the requirements of planning and public health legislation, then the present loopholes which exist and may even tend to encourage the use of poorly equipped and unsuitable sites in an irresponsible manner dictated only by the profit motive should be closed by appropriate legislative measures. Whatever one's personal view about caravanning and camping, there is no doubt that as a means of holiday making it has increased greatly in recent years and must be accepted and catered for. In the interests of those who take their holiday in this way, and the local residents of localities containing camping and caravanning sites, it seems essential that proper safeguards for the maintenance of good standards of hygiene, preservation of the appearance and amenities of countryside and coastline, and against the aggravation of local road traffic problems should be so written into the law of the land as to do away with present anomalies in this subject.

Apart from some building at Saltash and Torpoint to meet the needs of families who have to move from premises in slum clearance areas there has not been a great deal of activity in house-building by District Councils in the Health Area. Negotiations for the acquisition of land at Liskeard to accommodate a new housing estate for the Borough of Liskeard continued throughout the year. Until a start can be made on the development of this estate it is impossible to make any start on slum clearance schemes in the older parts of the town. The Minister of Housing and Local Government has recently reminded Local Authorities of the need to cater for retired and elderly people in their housing programmes. In the post-war anxiety to provide housing for families with young children the special requirements of elderly folk were generally overlooked, and many have continued to live in old sub-standard houses which with the passage of years are becoming increasingly dilapidated. In the past two years the slum clearance programme has brought to light many such old and very unfit properties with old persons as owner-occupiers or more frequently as tenants. Although the houses are patently unfit and in some cases dangerous to the occupants it is extremely difficult to recommend closure or demolition in face of the uncertainty as to how the tenants will be rehoused. For most of the elderly tenants the lack of suitable alternative accommodation, other than in an institution, is a serious source of worry for which the only generally satisfactory solution is the provision in all future local authority building programmes of some dwellings for old folk.

In the field of water supply the main activity during 1957 was again in the Liskeard Rural District. The laying of distribution mains in the south-western section of the Rural District was completed before the end of the year and with the completion and opening of the treatment works and storage reservoirs of the Liskeard and District Water Board at St. Cleer in October 1957 ample supplies of filtered treated water became available for the 60 miles of mains now laid and serving the southern and western parts of the Rural District. In the autumn a start was made on the laying of mains and the installation of reservoirs and pumping plant to serve the northern part of the district. In other parts of the area which have for some years been generally well served by piped supplies minor improvements to extend and augment such supplies continued.

As far as sewerage and sewage disposal were concerned the only large scale work carried out was at Callington where a scheme costing £30,000 to renew old sewers in the town, and to construct treatment works was commenced. This will remove a long-standing nuisance caused by discharge of crude, untreated sewage in fields close to the town, and obviate the serious pollution of the River Lynher which this sewage caused. Further investigations required to finalise a scheme for sewage disposal for the Borough of Liskeard

were just about complete by the end of the year. It now seems likely that the necessary public enquiry into this scheme can take place in the not too distant future.

I must apologise for the fact that this Annual Report will appear some weeks later than in previous years. The delay is due to the fact that I have during the first six months of 1958 been fairly heavily engaged in the poliomyelitis vaccination programme in schools and welfare clinics throughout the Health Area.

I should like to conclude this preface by again expressing my appreciation for the help and encouragement given me by Members of Councils and the various officers with whom I have worked during the year 1957.

I have the honour to be,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. J. FOX,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

- (1) *Medical Officer of Health :*
P. J. FOX,
M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.
- (2) *Public Health Inspector :*
J. MARTIN,
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H.
- (3) *Clerk :*
P. M. WHELL (Mrs.)
- (4) *Operative :*
T. M. KELLY.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area of the Borough	...	...	...	6,257 acres.
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population.				7,440
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	2,350
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£80,062
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate		...	...	£323

Vital Statistics for 1957.

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births	...	54	63	117

	Saltash M.B.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	16.2	15.4	16.1

		Male	Female	Total
Still Births	...	1	—	1

	Saltash M.B.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births...	8.5	17.1	22.4

		Male	Female	Total
Deaths	... ..	50	50	100

	Saltash M.B.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales
Death rate per 1,000 of population	11.4	12.2	11.5

Maternal Deaths... None Registered

		Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age		1	—	1

	Saltash M.B.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	8.6	17.4	23.0

Principal Causes of Death at All Ages

Heart disease	...	...	...	...	40
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ("stroke")	...				18
Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	...	13
Respiratory disease	...	...	...	...	7
Circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	6
Accidents	...	...	...	...	4
Digestive disease	...	...	...	...	3

Average Age at Death

Males	Females
65	75

There was a small excess of births over deaths. Still birth and infant mortality rates were appreciably below Health Area and national figures. Heart disease was again the most common cause of death, but there was a noticeable fall in the number of deaths due to cancer. The average age at death fell to 65 years for males but rose to 75 years for females. Of those who died during the year 48% had attained the age of 75 years or over at the time of death. For the fourth successive year there were no deaths attributable to pregnancy and childbirth.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority :

These particulars are incorporated at the beginning of the Report.

There was no change of staff during the year.

2. Committees :

The following Committees were concerned with matters of Public Health :—

HOUSING COMMITTEE,

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE.

3. National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47 :

This section relates to the removal to suitable premises of persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions ; and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons proper care or attention.

No action under this section was called for during the year.

4. National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50 :

It is the duty of the Local Authority under this section to bury the body of any person who has died or been found dead in the area in cases where it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made.

No burials were carried out under this section during the year.

SECTION C.

PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS AREA

(NOTE : The Borough Surveyor — Mr. A. de Barr, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., has kindly supplied certain information contained in this section.)

1. Water Supply :

(a) Quality :

Water continued to be supplied from two main sources — the Plymouth Corporation's Waterworks at Burrator, and the South East Cornwall Water Board's Works at Kit Hill. The quality of water received from both these sources remained highly satisfactory.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination from both supplies were taken regularly during the year by the Public Health Inspector. A total of 43 such samples was obtained. The reports on 39 of the samples were as follows :—

“ Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C. — nil per 100 m.l. Highly satisfactory — Class 1.”

In the case of the remaining four samples, examination showed that the probable number of coliform bacilli were as follows :—

(i)	...	...	8 per m.l.
(ii)	...	...	2 „ „
(iii)	...	...	35 „ „
(iv)	...	...	5 „ „

Coliform organisms of the faecal type were also detected in sample (ii). In all four cases contamination was subsequently found to be local.

31 samples were also taken from private water sources — i.e. wells, springs, etc. The reports on 14 of these samples were as follows :—

“ Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C. — nil per 100 m.l.

Equivalent in standard to a Class 1 piped supply and therefore very satisfactory.”

In the case of the 17 other samples examination showed that the probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 m.l. ranged from 2 to 900. In nine cases coliform organisms of the faecal type were also detected.

With the advent of a mains water supply in the outlying areas of the Borough (see section (b) below) most of the private water sources will be discontinued.

(b) Quantity :

An ample supply of water continued to be available from both main sources. During the year under review 107,000,000 gallons were supplied by the Plymouth Corporation and 9,500,000 by the South East Cornwall Water Board. Compared with the previous year (1956) there was an increase of 5,000,000 gallons in the Plymouth supply and of 2,250,000 gallons in the South East Cornwall Water Board supply.

No restrictions whatsoever were placed on the use of mains water during the year.

The Trematon Area Water Scheme which now provides mains water to the outlying areas of the Borough was completed during the year and inaugurated by the Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor J. P. Bidgood, J.P.) on the 26th November, 1957. The scheme the total cost of which was £33,000 involved the laying of some 6½ miles of 3" and 4" water main and the construction of a reinforced concrete service reservoir 110,000 gallons in capacity at Winstone Beacon.

(c) Plumbo-Solvency :

The total hardness of water supplied is :—

(i) Plymouth Corporation — 1 p.p.h.t.

(ii) South East Cornwall
Water Board — 3 p.p.h.t.

Water from both main sources has little or no action on lead. No cases of lead poisoning were reported.

(d) Proportion of Population supplied from Public Water Mains :

Since the completion of the Trematon Area Water Scheme fifty new connections have been made to the mains water system.

The proportion of the population now supplied with water from public water mains is 98.66%. The proportion supplied by means of stand-pipes is negligible.

2. Drainage and Sewerage :

No major alterations or improvements were made to the sewerage system during the year.

In connection with rodent control, however, a survey was made of the entire sewerage system in an effort to trace and record every manhole. The information obtained was passed to the Borough Surveyor and will enable an accurate and complete sewer map to be compiled for the first time.

3. Sewage Disposal :

The disposal of sewage continues to be affected by means of five outfalls into the river Tamar and one outfall into the river Lynher. Only in one case, however, does sewage receive any form of treatment prior to discharge. It is highly undesirable from aesthetic, public health and economic points of view that crude, untreated sewage should be discharged directly into rivers. This is a problem which is receiving increased attention both at local and at national levels. So far as Saltash is concerned, it is desirable that as soon as circumstances and the Council's resources permit, a scheme should be introduced for the proper treatment of sewage flowing from all discharge points.

4. Closet Accommodation :

No conversions from earth closets to water closets were carried out during the year. It is hoped, however, that as mains water is now available in the more rural parts of the Borough, house owners will quickly take steps to replace insanitary and obsolete earth-closets with modern water-closets and drainage systems.

5. Public Cleansing :

(a) Refuse Collection :

The old, side-loading collection vehicle was replaced during the year by a new rear-loading "fore and aft" tipper. This vehicle is able to carry one extra loader and permits of direct loading, thus abolishing the unsatisfactory and unhygienic "skip" system.

The frequency of collection continued to be once fortnightly in the outlying areas, once weekly in the central area and twice weekly in the case of foodshops.

(b) Refuse Disposal :

Refuse continued to be disposed of by controlled tipping at the Salt Mill Tip. Although every effort was made to comply with the Ministry recommendations in respect of controlled tipping, difficulty was again experienced in providing adequate cover for organic refuse.

Regular measures continued to be taken for the extermination of rodents, and during the summer months the tipping surface was treated twice weekly with insecticidal dressings to secure the elimination of insect pests. The use of chlorinated hydrocarbons (e.g. D.D.T. and B.H.C.) as insecticides was discontinued during the year owing to the fact that flies were found to have developed an alarming degree of resistance to them. The advice of a chemical manufacturing firm was obtained on the problem and experiments were subsequently carried out with an insecticide based on malathion. This proved to be entirely satisfactory.

(c) Salvage :

The collection and recovery of paper, textiles and metals continued during the year, but on a very reduced scale. Receipts from the sale of these materials during the period 1st April, 1957, to 31st March, 1958, were as follows :—

			£	s.	d.
Textiles	...	...	12	1	9
Metals	...	...	169	15	4
			<hr/>		
			£181	17	1
			<hr/>		

The collection of paper was discontinued owing to a complete fall-off in demand.

(d) Street Cleansing :

Four men with orderly barrows continued to be employed in street sweeping. The frequency varies between twice daily and once weekly according to the type of street.

A privately operated vacuum exhaustor is used when required for the emptying and cleansing of street gullies.

(e) Cesspool Emptying :

When required a cesspool emptying vehicle is hired from a neighbouring authority.

6. Public Conveniences :

Male and female public conveniences are provided at :—

Alexandra Square,
Burraton Sports Field,
Ferry Waiting Room,
Longstone Park, and
Warfelton Sports Feld.

7. Public Health Inspection of the Area :

The inspection of all districts was regularly carried out by the Public Health Inspector. Some difficulty was experienced, however, in adequately covering the outlying areas owing to the fact that the Inspector is not provided with means of transport. During the year under review the following visits and inspections were made by him in connection with :—

			No.
Individual unfit houses	...	...	104
Houses in proposed clearance areas	...	...	59
Council house management	...	...	163
Insect infestations	...	...	8
Drainage and sewerage	...	...	5
Sewage disposal	...	...	2
Refuse disposal	...	...	3
Food premises	...	...	170
Milk distributors	...	...	8
The slaughterhouse	...	...	160
Slaughter of animals	...	...	2
Shops (Shops Act, 1950)	...	...	50
Factories	...	...	14
Places of entertainment	...	...	1
Moveable dwellings	...	...	16
Water supply	...	...	73
Infectious diseases	...	...	9
Pet shops	...	...	1
Keeping of animals	...	...	9
Offensive odours	...	...	6
Offensive accumulations	...	...	5
Noise nuisances	...	...	1
			<hr/> 869
Other visits (unclassified)	...	...	54
			<hr/> 923

8. Factories Act, 1937 :

Co-operation has been maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories in the exercise of the provisions of this Act.

The following tables give the number of factories in the Borough, details of inspections made by the Public Health Inspector and the number of defects found.

(i) Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority ...	6	5	1	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	17	9	1	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	23	14	2	Nil

(ii) Cases in which Defects were Found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2). Unreasonable	—	—	—	—	—
temperature (S.3). Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

9. Outworkers :

No outworkers are at present employed in the Borough.

10. Shops Act, 1950 :

Fifty routine inspections of shops were made under this Act during the year.

One contravention of the health provisions, and one contravention of the Sunday trading provisions were discovered. Informal action was taken in both cases.

11. Pet Animals Act, 1951 :

This Act requires all shops selling pet animals to be licensed by the Local Authority. One application was received during the year and the licence was subsequently granted.

12. Insect Control :

In previous years it was the practice of the Council to carry out all works of disinfestation free of charge. In March of the year under review, however, the Council decided that in future, only disinfestations of premises infested with bed-bugs and fleas would be carried out free of charge, all other treatments being charged for on a labour and materials basis. The effect of this decision was to reduce very considerably the total number of treatments. The following table indicates the actual number carried out during the year :—

Type of Infestation			No. of Treatments	
Ants	2
Beetles	13
Fleas	8
Flies	5
Hornets	1
Moths	1
Wasps	20
Woodworm	7
Total	<u>57</u>

13. Rodent Control :

The control of rodents continued to be carried out on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives details of inspections and treatments made during the period 1st April, 1957 to 31st March, 1958 :—

TYPE OF PROPERTY					
Non-Agricultural					
	1	2	3	4	5
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All Other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3)	Agricultural
Number of properties in Local Authority's District	13	2,350	309	2,672	76
Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification ...	2	45	8	55	3
(b) Survey under the Act ...	2	246	63	311	73
Total inspections carried out includ- ing re-inspections ...	5	308	86	399	111
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats { Major ...	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
{ Minor ...	2	64	14	80	31
(b) Mice { Major ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
{ Minor ...	1	60	11	72	Nil
*Number of infested properties treated by the L.A. ...	4	124	25	153	31
Total treatments carried out includ- ing re-treatments ...	5	141	40	186	41

*N.B.—These figures do not include re-treatments.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

1. Demolition of Unfit Houses :

(a) Clearance Areas :

Work commenced during the year on the clearance of houses situated in the Waterside Clearance Areas Nos. 1 and 2 ; a total of twenty houses being demolished. Seventy-one persons in twenty-eight families were displaced from their homes as a result of these demolitions.

Three houses acquired under Section 43 (2) of the Housing Act, 1957, were also demolished, a further eight persons in three families being displaced.

On the 10th September, 1957, the Borough Council declared two further areas to be clearance areas namely, the Waterside Clearance Area No. 3 (comprising twenty-five houses) and the Waterside Clearance Area No. 4 (comprising three houses). A Compulsory Purchase Order was subsequently made in respect of both areas.

(b) Individual Unfit Houses :

No individual unfit houses were demolished during the year under review.

2. Closure of Unfit Houses :

One house was closed for the purpose of human habitation during the year.

3. Repairs of Unfit Houses :

Seven individual unfit houses were made fit as a result of informal action by the Borough Council. One formal notice was served.

4. Rent Act, 1957 — Certificates of Disrepair :

This act, inter alia, empowers landlords of controlled houses — i.e. houses with a rateable value of £30 or less to increase rents up to certain prescribed limits. If the house needs repair, however, the tenant can send to the landlord a list of defects which he wishes him to remedy. Six weeks are allowed for the landlord and tenant to reach agreement on the defects to be made good. The landlord may,

however, do the repairs at once or give a written undertaking to do them. If at the end of six weeks the landlord and tenant have not reached agreement, or the landlord has not remedied the defects, or has not given a written undertaking to do so, the tenant may apply to the local authority for a Certificate of Disrepair.

When such an application is made to a local authority, and the authority is satisfied that the house is in disrepair by reason of the defects specified in the tenant's list, and that all or any of the defects ought reasonably to be remedied having regard to the age, character and locality of the house, they must issue to the tenant a "Certificate of Disrepair". The effect of a certificate is to reduce the rent to its original figure.

Before granting a certificate, however, the local authority must give the landlord three weeks' notice of their intention to do so, and must also specify the defects to which the certificate will relate. If within three weeks the landlord gives an undertaking to remedy the defects and serves a copy of the undertaking on the local authority, then the certificate is not issued.

Since the commencement of the Act to the end of the year under review two applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received. In one case the landlord gave an undertaking to remedy the defects and in the other a certificate was subsequently granted.

5. Improvement Grants :

Six applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year. Each application was approved in principle by the Council, but grants were subsequently made in only two cases. The grants together amounted to £427. 13. 6. and on average represented 35% of the total cost of works approved.

6. New Houses :

(a) Local Authority :

For the second year in succession no new accommodation for ordinary housing purposes was constructed by the Council. Work continued, however, on the Third Extension of Grenfell Avenue where forty dwellings (sixteen one-bedroom flats, sixteen two-bedroom flats and eight three-bedroom houses) were in course of erection. Of these, twelve one-bedroom flats, thirteen two-bedroom flats and all eight houses were completed during the year. In addition, work commenced on the Fourth Extension of Grenfell Avenue where ten dwellings (four one-bedroom flats, four two-bedroom flats and two three-bedroom houses) are to be built. All the new dwellings will be utilised to provide accommodation for families displaced from their homes as a result of the Council's slum clearance programme.

The following table gives details of all dwellings constructed by the Council to the end of the year under review.

Location	Total Number of Dwellings	HOUSES			FLATS				Year of Completion (Post-War)
		2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms	1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	PRE-FABS. 2 Bedrooms	
Lander Road ...	38	—	38	—	—	—	—	—	
Newman Road ...	36	—	36	—	—	—	—	—	
Moorland View ...	22	—	6	—	—	16	—	—	
Glanville Terrace ...	14	—	6	—	—	8	—	—	
Moorlands Lane ...	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	
Warfelton Crescent ...	72	—	38	2	—	32	—	—	
Pre-War Total ...	192	—	134	2	—	56	—	—	
Kimberley Square ...	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	1946/7
Warfelton Bungalows.	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	"
Moorland Bungalows.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	"
Alamein Road ...	93	—	81	—	—	12	—	—	1946/8
Montgomery Close ...	19	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	"
Tobruk Road ...	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	"
Church Road ...	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	"
Ashtor Wharf ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1946
Mulberry Road ...	32	—	24	—	4	4	—	—	1949/50
Plough Green ...	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1951
Liskeard Road ...	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1951
Warraton Close ...	17	14	1	2	—	—	—	—	1951/2/3
Warraton Road ...	16	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	1952
Callington Road ...	7	—	1	2	—	—	4	—	1952/3
Grenfell Avenue ...	67	10	8	—	24	25	—	—	1952/4/6/7
	512	56	279	6	28	98	5	40	

(b) Private :

Nine new dwellings were constructed during the year.

7. Management of Council Houses :

The following tables give information in statistical form concerning the management of Council houses during the year under review :—

(a) Number of names on list of applicants at 1st January, 1957 :

(i) Requiring accommodation with 1 bedroom ...	...	52
(ii) „ „ „ 2 bedrooms ...	...	65
(iii) „ „ „ 3 bedrooms ...	...	28
(iv) TOTAL ...	...	145

(b) Number of names on list of applicants at 31st December, 1957 :

(i)	Requiring accommodation with 1 bedroom	...	...	49
(ii)	„ „ „ 2 bedrooms	...	...	62
(iii)	„ „ „ 3 bedrooms	...	...	20
				<hr/>
(iv)	TOTAL	...	...	131
				<hr/>

(c) Net decreased of applicants during 1957 : ... 14

(d) Number of new applications received during 1957 :

(i)	Requiring accommodation with 1 bedroom	...	...	9
(ii)	„ „ „ 2 bedrooms	...	...	24
(iii)	„ „ „ 3 bedrooms	...	...	10
				<hr/>
(iv)	TOTAL	...	...	43
				<hr/>

(e) Number of applicants re-housed during 1957 :

(i)	Into accommodation with 1 bedroom	...	...	2
(ii)	„ „ „ 2 bedrooms	...	...	14
(iii)	„ „ „ 3 bedrooms	...	...	14
				<hr/>
(iv)	TOTAL	...	...	30*
				<hr/>

*This figure includes eleven applicants re-housed under the slum clearance programme (also included in table (g) below).

(f) Number of names removed from list of applicants during 1957 :

(i)	Requiring accommodation with 1 bedroom	...	...	10
(ii)	„ „ „ 2 bedrooms	...	...	13
(iii)	„ „ „ 3 bedrooms	...	...	4
				<hr/>
(iv)	TOTAL	...	...	27
				<hr/>

(g) Number of families re-housed under slum clearance programme :

(i)	Into accommodation with 1 bedroom	...	...	12
(ii)	„ „ „ 2 bedrooms	...	...	13
(iii)	„ „ „ 3 bedrooms	...	...	8
				<hr/>
(iv)	TOTAL	...	...	33*
				<hr/>

*This figure includes eleven applicants (also included in table (e) above).

**(h) Number of persons on list of applicants at 31st December, 1957
who will be re-housed under the Slum Clearance Programme.**

(i)	Requiring accommodation with 1 bedroom	...	...	3
(ii)	„ „ „ 2 bedrooms	...	...	10
(iii)	„ „ „ 3 bedrooms	...	...	10
				<hr/>
(iv)	TOTAL	...	...	23
				<hr/>

(i) Transfers and exchanges :

(i)	Number of tenants transferred to different accommodation during 1957	6
(ii)	Number of tenants who moved to different accommodation during 1957 as a result of mutual exchanges	...	...	20
				<hr/>
(iii)	TOTAL	...	...	26
				<hr/>

(j) Applications for permission to accommodate lodgers :

(i)	Applications received during 1957	...	...	23
(ii)	Number of cases in which permission was granted unconditionally	...	...	13
(iii)	Number of cases in which permission was granted for specific period	...	...	9
(iv)	Number of applications refused	...	...	1

(k) Visits made during 1957 by Public Health Inspector in connection with Housing Management :

(i)	To Applicants for Council accommodation	...	...	134
(ii)	To Tenants requiring transfers	...	...	1
(iii)	To Tenants making application for permission to accommodate Lodgers	...	...	13
(iv)	Other visits	...	...	15
				<hr/>
(v)	TOTAL	...	...	163
				<hr/>

There was no significant change in the housing situation during the year under review. It will be seen from table "c" above, that a small decrease again occurred in the number of persons on the list of applicants. This was mainly due, however, to a further revision of the list which resulted in the cancellation of a number of redundant applications. It should be borne in mind, moreover, that the total number of new applications exceeded the number of applicants rehoused by thirteen.

Of the fifty-two families granted accommodation during the year, nineteen were applicants rehoused in casual vacancies and eleven were applicants rehoused under the slum-clearance programme. The remaining twenty-two were non-applicants rehoused under the slum-clearance programme. The number of casual vacancies which occurred during the year (nineteen) represented an increase of two over the number occurring during 1956. Experience in recent years has shown that this number rarely exceeds twenty. Applicants (other than those to be rehoused in new accommodation under the slum-clearance programme) will, therefore, continue to wait for long periods before being granted accommodation.

The most pressing demand continued to be from young married couples requiring accommodation with two bedrooms. The demand for three-bedroom accommodation, however, fell so sharply that on occasions during the year vacancies in this type of accommodation had to be filled by families who would normally only require two bedrooms.

It is again necessary to draw attention to the very urgent need for specially-designed accommodation for old-age pensioners. In the 1956 report it was mentioned that there are many elderly applicants on the Council's waiting list, some of whom are living under most difficult and depressing circumstances. With a continuously ageing population this number is likely to increase very considerably in future years. It is, therefore, important that early consideration should be given to the erection of a small number of flatlets specifically designed for old people.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk :

(a) Source of Supply :

Milk supplied to the town continued to be obtained from private producers and from a pasteurising establishment. The supervision of the production of milk on farms continues to be in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The pasteurising establishment is inspected and controlled by officers of the County Council.

(b) Milk Distribution :

Sixteen persons are registered as distributors of milk.

Since the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) No. 2, Order, 1955 came into operation on the 6th December, 1955, only specially designated milk, i.e. tuberculin-tested, pasteurised or sterilised milk has been permitted to be sold within the Borough.

Five samples of pasteurised milk and two samples of tuberculin-tested milk were taken from local distributors and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The reports in every case were satisfactory.

(c) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950 :

Sixteen dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation " Pasteurised " were issued during the year.

Two supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation " Pasteurised " were also issued.

(d) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950 :

Fifteen dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation " Tuberculin Tested " were issued during the year.

2. Meat :

(a) Slaughter-Houses :

One private slaughter-house is licensed in the Borough. This slaughter-house is now used by two local butchers only.

(b) Slaughter-men :

There are seven persons licensed to slaughter animals.

(c) Meat Inspection :

All animals slaughtered are inspected according to methods and criteria of meat inspection recommended by the Ministry of Food in Memorandum 3/Meat. The following table gives details of inspections made during the year :—

			Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	...	...	303	3	5	762	3	—
Number inspected	...	...	303	3	5	762	3	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCOSIS :								
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	61	1	—	9	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	...	...	20	33	—	1	67	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :								
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—
CYSTICERCOSIS :								
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—

3. Ice Cream :

Seventeen premises are registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice-cream and one for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream. The supervision of these premises has been carefully maintained during the year.

Fourteen samples of ice-cream (all hot mix) were obtained from local retailers and submitted for bacteriological examination. The Public Health Laboratory Service reports on these samples were as follows :—

Provisional Grade 1	...	13
Provisional Grade 2	...	1
Provisional Grade 3	...	0

4. Other Foods :

The following foodstuffs were inspected, found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered voluntarily :—

				lbs.	ozs.
Canned meat	...	...	...	286	0
Canned preserves	...	...	...	1	0
Canned fruit	...	...	...	51	12
Canned milk	...	...	...	6	0
Canned vegetables	...	...	...	38	11
Canned fish	...	...	...	1	10
Canned soup	...	...	...	3	13
Butter	...	...	...	1	4
Poultry	...	...	...	8	0
Jelly	...	...	...		8
Baking powder	...	...	...	1	0
Total weight surrendered				399	10

During the previous year (1956) the amount of food (other than meat) found to be unfit was 454 lbs. 7 ozs. There was thus a decrease during the year under review of 54 lbs. 13 ozs.

5. Food Premises :

(a) The number of Food Premises in the Area, by type of business :

Grocers	...	...	...	21
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	5
Butchers	...	...	...	7
Cafés and Restaurants	...	...	...	4
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	3
Fishmongers	...	...	...	3
Greengrocers	...	...	...	4
Dairy	...	...	...	1
Distributors of Milk	...	...	...	16
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	10

(b) The number of Food Premises, by type, registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16 :

(i) Ice Cream :

Grocers	...	...	...	...	11
Bakers	...	...	...	...	3
Cafés	...	...	...	...	3
Mixed Premises	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/>
					17
					<hr/>

(ii) Other :

Butchers (Sausage making)	...	...	...	...	7
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	3
					<hr/>
					10
					<hr/>

6. Educational Activities :

No new educational activities were undertaken during the year.

7. Method and Disposal of Unfit Food :

All unfit food continues to be disposed of by burial at the Salt Mill controlled tip. Meat found to be unfit at the slaughter-house is stained with liquid acid green before removal.

8. Food Poisoning Outbreaks :

No cases of food poisoning were notified during 1957.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) :

A sharp epidemic of measles which lasted from the middle of April until early July produced in all 401 cases of this disease. Fortunately there were no deaths from the disease during this epidemic which produced the greatest number of cases in any year since I commenced keeping records in 1948. Apart from measles other notifiable diseases were not numerous and no deaths resulted. Amongst these other infectious diseases there was one case of paratyphoid infection in a young adult who contracted the disease whilst living in France.

The following are details of cases and case rates of infectious disease notified during 1957 :—

Disease	Actual		Case rate per 1,000 of population	
	Cases		Saltash M.B.	Health Area No. 7
Measles	401		53.90	24.79
Whooping cough	17		2.28	2.23
Pneumonia	8		1.08	1.02
Scarlet fever	6		0.81	0.29
Erysipelas	6		0.81	0.16
Paratyphoid fever	1		0.13	0.02
Non-paralytic poliomyelitis..	1		0.13	0.02

2. Tuberculosis :

During the year seven new cases of tuberculosis were notified, an increase of one over the 1956 total. There were six respiratory infections and one non-respiratory infection. One young adult died from tuberculosis.

The following are details of new cases, deaths, case rates and mortality rates of tuberculosis during 1957 :—

Age Group	New Cases		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...	—	—	—	—
1—5 ...	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	1	—	—	—
15—45 ...	2	3	1	—
45—65 ...	1	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	4	3	1	—

			Rates per 1,000 of population	
			Saltash M.B.	Health Area No. 7
New cases	...	...	0.94	0.41
All known cases	...	...	7.93	6.85
Deaths	...	...	0.13	0.08

At the end of 1957 there were 53 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and six known cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis resident in the Borough.

APPENDIX 1.

Principal Causes of Death — All Ages — 1957

Disease	St. Germans R.D.	Liskeard R.D.	Saltash M.B.	Torpoint U.D.	Liskeard M.B.	Looe U.D.	Health Area No. 7
Heart disease ...	71	76	40	8	57	26	278
Cancer (all sites) ...	35	23	13	11	13	10	105
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ("stroke") ...	26	21	18	7	17	4	93
Respiratory disease ...	25	11	7	7	8	4	62
Circulatory disease ...	5	8	6	2	7	2	30
Accidents ...	2	6	4	4	5	—	21*
Digestive disease ...	2	1	3	1	3	2	12
Genito-urinary disease ...	3	4	1	2	—	1	11
Diabetes ...	2	4	—	1	1	—	8
Suicide ...	3	1	1	—	1	—	6
Tuberculosis ...	1	2	1	—	—	—	4

*Includes 4 deaths in motor vehicle accidents.

APPENDIX 2.

Types of Heart Disease and Cancer Causing Death — 1957

Disease	St. Germans R.D.	Liskeard R.D.	Saltash M.B.	Torpoint U.D.	Liskeard M.B.	Looe U.D.	Health Area No. 7
Coronary disease, angina.	22	33	21	2	4	9	91
Hypertension with heart disease ...	6	3	1	1	—	2	13
Other heart disease ...	43	40	18	5	53	15	174
Cancer of lung and bronchus ...	7	4	2	—	—	2	15
Cancer of stomach ...	5	2	1	4	2	—	14
Cancer of breast ...	4	2	—	—	—	2	8
Cancer of uterus ...	2	1	2	—	1	—	6
Other cancers ...	17	14	8	7	10	6	62

APPENDIX 3.

Deaths by Age Groups — 1957

District	0-5 Years	5-15 Years	15-45 Years	45-65 Years	65-75 Years	75 years and over	All Ages
St. Germans R.D. ...	3	1	5	41	52	100	202
Liskeard R.D. ...	4	—	7	29	49	86	175
Saltash M.B. ...	2	—	4	22	24	48	100
Torpoint U.D. ...	5	—	2	11	11	18	47
Liskeard M.B. ...	—	—	1	13	29	73	116
Looe U.D. ...	1	—	1	11	12	27	52
Health Area No. 7 ...	15	1	20	127	177	352	692

APPENDIX 4.

Average Age at Death — 1957

District			Males	Females
St. Germans R.D.	...		67	74
Liskeard R.D.	...		69	73
Saltash M.B.	...		65	75
Torpoint U.D.	...		63	59
Liskeard M.B.	...		72	80
Looe U.D.	...		68	76
Health Area No. 7	...		67	73

APPENDIX 5.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths in Health Area No. 7 — 1957

Age Group		New Cases		Deaths	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 year	...	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	...	1	—	—	—
5—15 years	...	1	1	—	—
15—45 years	...	5	4	1	—
45—65 years	...	5	2	—	—
65 years and over.		1	1	2	1
Totals	...	13	8	3	1

	Males	Females	Total
New case rate per 1,000 of population ...	0.25	0.16	0.41
Mortality rate per 1,000 of population ...	0.06	0.02	0.08

Case Rates and Mortality Rates per 1,000 of Population in the Six County Districts in Health Area No. 7 — 1957

District		New Cases	All known cases at 31.12.57	Deaths
St. Germans R.D.	...	0.19	6.59	0.06
Liskeard R.D.	...	0.50	5.46	0.14
Saltash M.B.	...	0.94	7.93	0.13
Torpoint U.D.	...	—	8.32	—
Liskeard M.B.	...	0.46	7.87	—
Looe U.D.	...	0.53	7.45	—
Health Area No. 7	...	0.41	6.85	0.08
Cornwall County	...	0.65	7.39	0.12

APPENDIX 6.

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS
Deaths by Age Groups and Sexes — 1957

Age Groups		Males	Females
15—45 years	...	—	—
45—65 years	...	7	—
65—75 years	...	4	—
75 years and over	...	2	2
Totals		13	2

Death Rate per 1,000 of Population — 1957

		Males	Females	Total
Health Area No. 7	...	0.254	0.039	0.293
Cornwall County	...	0.244	0.049	0.293
England and Wales	...	0.366	0.059	0.425

Printed by . . .

The Camborne Printing
and Stationery Co., Ltd.

24 Commercial Street
Camborne, Cornwall

Telephone - - 2170
